Many people believe that the EU lacks solidarity and needs a social dimension. This debate is not new but, until recently, the notion of a ‘social Europe’ remained vague and elusive. What is now required is a coherent conception of the reasons behind and the agenda for a European Social Union. This book offers the first in-depth examination of the rationale and feasibility of such a Social Union. It explores how we can justify, define and demarcate an appropriate notion of European solidarity and examines legal and political barriers. In short, rather than merely deploring the lack of a social dimension to the EU, it provides new perspectives and answers to questions of ‘why’, ‘what’, and ‘how’. A cast of outstanding scholars and practitioners reflect on the obstacles and solutions, incorporating economic, social, philosophical, legal and political perspectives.